

Message Text

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PASS NASA FOR DR. FLETCHER; PARIS FOR NASA - MR. MURPHY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, NL

SUBJ: VISIT TO EUROPEAN SPACE OPERATIONS CENTER (ESOC)

FOR PASS-OVER OF ASTRONOMICAL NETHERLANDS

SATELLITE (ANS)

REF: THE HAGUE 5094

1. DCM TANGUY REPRESENTED AMBASSADOR AS GUEST OF NETHERLANDS AGENCY FOR AEROSPACE PROGRAMS (NIVR), WHICH ORGANIZED OCTOBER 17 VISIT OF SOME 60 TOP DUTCH GOVERNMENT, AIR FORCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS AND LEADING ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS TO ESOC (IN DARMSTADT, GERMANY) TO OBSERVE "PASS-OVER" OF ANS LATE THAT AFTERNOON. PROGRAM CONSISTED OF SERIES OF TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS ON CONCEPTION, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ANS WITH AMPLE TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AND FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION. CLIMAX CAME WHEN GROUP WAS BROUGHT TO ESOC'S OPERATIONS ROOM FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFING AND THEN OBSERVATION OF TWO-WAY EXCHANGE WITH ANS AS IT PASSED OVER DARMSTADT.

2. NASA'S ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE PROJECT WAS FAVORABLY CITED BY SEVERAL OF THE SPEAKERS, INCLUDING ESRO ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL GIBSON, WHO CONVEYED PERSONAL GREETINGS

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AND CONGRATULATIONS FROM DR. FLETCHER (WHOM HE HAD JUST

SEEN IN WASHINGTON). AUDIENCE WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST NASA-PRODUCED FILM ON DETAILED PREPARATION AND LAUNCHING OF ANS AT WESTERN TEST RANGE LAST AUGUST. PROGRAM WAS CLOSED BY SPEECH BY MINISTER OF SCIENCE TRIP, WHO READ MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ADDRESSED JOINTLY TO HIM AND MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BY DR. FLETCHER (SEE REFTTEL), AND ADDED HIS PERSONAL WORD OF APPRECIATION FOR NASA'S SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT.

3. COMMENT: OCCASION WAS ONE OF UNDERSTANDABLE GRATIFICATION FOR DUTCH GUESTS, MOST OF WHOM HAD EITHER PERSONALLY OR THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED BRAIN POWER AND/OR FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL RESOURCES TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE ANS PROJECT. THIS WAS ALSO A GOOD DAY FOR EUROPE, FOR THE ANS HAS FROM ITS LAUNCHING BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF ESOC'S MONITORING AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES (PLEASE NOTE THAT ESRO/ESOC INCLUDES SWEDEN, SPAIN AND SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS THE NETHERLANDS AND SIX OTHER EC MEMBER STATES). FINALLY, IT WAS A VERY POSITIVE DAY FOR US-DUTCH AND US-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN AN EXCITING AND IMPORTANT FIELD WITH GREAT PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE OF MANKIND. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN NO BETTER ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEME SOUNDED BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS NYT INTERVIEW ON THE ABSOLUTE INTER-DEPENDENCE OF NATIONS, GREAT AND SMALL.
TANGUY

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